GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:730
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
EXTRACTION OF COAL FROM ABANDONED MINES
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether several people have lost their lives while extracting coal from abandoned coal mines in Jharkhand and other coal mines in the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so,the details thereof;and

(c) the measures taken to prevent such illegal mining in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA)

(a) & (b): As no mining operations are being carried out by colliery authority in the mines which have been abandoned by the competent authority, no feedback regarding loss of lives due to extraction of coal from abandoned coal mines in Jharkhand and other coal mines has been received by Coal India Limited (CIL) and CIL does not maintain any record in this regard.

(c) The following measures have been taken to prevent illegal mining activities by the subsidiaries of C1L:-

i) Regular monitoring through patrolling by the security squad at the suspected areas,

ii) In case of any information of any illegal mining activities within leasehold areas,steps are being taken for spot raiding alongwith help of local police,

iii) Fencing around the abandoned areas to stop encroacher,

iv) Scaling of incline mouth by erecting concrete wall to stop entry in the abandoned mine,

v) Dozing to fill the exposed coal seams at the suspected illegal mining locations.

vi) Frequent meeting with district/state authority to curb suspected illegal mining operations.

vii) FIRs being lodged to local police stations in case of incidences of illegal mining noticed within leasehold areas by the mine authority.

viii) Displaying board(such as ``Closed Mine`, `Abandoned Mine Area`, `Prohibited Areas` etc.) to stop entry of encroachers in the prohibited areas.